

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

DHA-02 /060 W

----- 069671

R 010800Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4318

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3025

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOMBAY 0497 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI
INFO CALCUTTA/MADRAS 27 FEB 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0497

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: MRS. GANDHI'S MEETING WITH ACHARYA BHAVE FEBRUARY 24 IN
PAVNAR

1. RESULTS OF MRS. GANDHI'S MEETING WITH BHAVE CONTINUE TO BE HELD CLOSELY. JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED MRS. GANDHI TO PAVNAR TOLD CONGEN THEY HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO THE SKETCHY DETAILS RELEASED IN THE PRESS. SINCE MRS. GANDHI AND BHAVE DID MEET FOR AN HOUR, MOST OBSERVERS PRESUME THAT BHAVE KEPT HIS PROMISE TO SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER GORAY TO LAY OUT THE OPPOSITION VIEWPOINT TO MRS. GANDHI. AFTER THE MEETING BOTH MRS. GANDHI AND BHAVE FIRMLY DECLINED TO MAKE ANY COMMENTARY ON THEIR MEETING. BHAVE CALLED FOR PATIENCE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND STATED THAT HE WOULD HOLD A CONVOCATION OF 350 INTELLECTUALS SOMETIME IN MAY TO EVOLVE A "CONSENSUS" IN ORDER TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE RULING PARTY AND ACHIEVE AN ACCOMMODATION.

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2. BEFORE GANDHI-BHAVE HAD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 17TH GORAY

DISCUSSED THE OPPOSITION POSITION AT LENGTH WITH BHAVE AND ON FEBRUARY 20TH NAVASHAKTI, A MARATHI DAILY ON THE FREE PRESS GROUP PUBLISHED A STATEMENT BY GORAY OUTLINING THE POSITION AS GIVEN TO BHAVE. THE ARTICLE STRESSED THE FOLLOWING POINTS: THE NEED TO FIGHT INJUSTICES, THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EARLY END TO THE EMERGENCY, THE DUTY OF INTELLECTUALS TO UPHOLD FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND, FINALLY, THE INEVITABILITY OF AN OPPOSITION IN A DEMOCRACY. GORAY TOLD NAVASHAKTI THAT BHAVE AGREED TO RAISE ALL THESE POINTS IN HIS MEETING WITH MRS. GANDHI.

3. GORAY TOLD A MEETING OF SOCIALIST PARTY WORKERS IN POONA ON FEBRUARY 19TH AT A "CONSENSUS OPPOSITION POSITION" WOULD EVENTUALLY BE SUBMITTED TO RMS. GANDHI BY BHAVE FOR CONSIDERATION. GORAY STATED THAT BHAVE ASSURED HIM IF MRS. GANDHI FAILED TO ACT ON THIS CONSENSUS THEN BHAVE AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN THE SARVODAYA MOVEMENT WOULD PROTEST BY OFFERING SATYAGRAHA. GORAY COMMENTED TO THE WORKERS MEETING THAT SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE IN SUCH A LARGE CONFERENCE OF INTELLECTUALS AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT BHAVE WOULD DO IF MRS. GANDHI FAILED TO RESPOND TO HIS SATYAGRAHA.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT BHAVE RAISED THE ISSUES OUTLINED BY GORAY, IT IS PROBABLY THAT MRS. GANDHI DID NOT REACT FAVORABLY TO THE PROPOSALS. AS NEW DELHI 2922 POINTS OUT, MRS. GANDHI UNDOUBTEDLY CAUTIONED BHAVE THAT THE USE OF SATYAGRAHA WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN BREAKING THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK. IT SEEMS THAT GORAY IS NOT REALLY VERY HOPEFUL ABOUT THE IMPRACTICAL AND SWEEPING CONSENSUS ENVISIONED BY BHAVE AT HIS PLANNED MEETING IN MAY OR THE THREATENED SATYAGRAHA IF MRS. GANDHI DOES NOT THEN REACT TO THE OPPOSITION VIEWPOINT. MRS. GANDHI THUS MAY WELL HAVE USED THE MEETING WITH BHAVE TO PRIVATELY UNDERLINE THE CONDITIONS FOR RECONCILIATION SHE GAVE IN HER PUBLIC ADDRESS IN AURANGABAD THAT SAME DAY.

COURTNEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE03025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0366
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603107/aaaadqzs.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. GANDHI'S MEETING WITH ACHARYA BHAVE FEBRUARY 24 IN PAVNAR
TAGS: PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (BHAVE, ACHARYA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006